

From East to West Rockville's I-270 Pedestrian And Bicycle Bridge Is On A Roll

It is hard to miss the construction project progressing along West Montgomery Avenue (MD 28) at the I-270 interchange. But what most motorists may not know is that this project will vastly improve east-west bicycle and pedestrian access across the City. The project marks the most recent update to the City's Bikeway Master Plan and is simply called the I-270 Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge. When the new bridge is completed, bicyclists will be able to conveniently and more safely travel from neighborhoods such as Rockshire and Fallsgrove to other destinations in the central and east part of the city, such as the new, bustling Town Center.

"We have been waiting for this project for years," said Recreation Program Development Coordinator Betsy Thompson. "It is wonderful to see the substantial progress happening right before our eyes."

The new bridge will provide an essential element for pedestrians and bi-

cyclists crossing over the highway and will showcase a key facility in Rockville's pedestrian and bicycle system to drivers passing below. The bridge is being constructed on the south side of the I-270/MD 28 interchange and consists of a 10-foot-wide multi-use path beginning at Adclare Road and continuing west along the south side of West Montgomery Avenue. The path crosses I-270 and the southbound on-ramp (behind the Shell gas station on Hurley Avenue) on a 10-foot-wide bridge, separate from the roadway. The path then crosses Hurley Avenue at the Watts Branch Parkway intersection and travels along West Montgomery Avenue to Crofton Hill Lane and Research Boulevard. At this point pedestrians and bicyclists can continue on a 6-foot wide sidewalk on either side of MD 28 to Darnestown Road or Key West Avenue at Fallsgrove.

"The value of this project is immeasurable," said Thompson. "Without the help of federal grants that the City



The new I-270 pedestrian and bike bridge along MD 28 is scheduled for completion this November.

received, we would not have been able to build this east-west link."

The majority of this project is being financed using federal funds. The Maryland State Highway Administration awarded Federal Transportation Enhancement Program funds in the amount of \$3,124,421 to the City of Rockville in 2001 for this project. The City requested additional funds and, with the help of our legislators in District 17, was granted an additional \$647,489

in March 2006, bringing the total federal funding to \$3,771,910. The award marked the largest grant of enhancement funds in Maryland. The grant award will fund up to 80 percent of the construction costs for the project. The City's contribution will be \$1,526,772, making the total project cost \$5,298,682.

City officials expect the project to be completed by the end of November. At that time, bicyclists will benefit from yet another goal of the 1998 Bikeway Master Plan. ■

City Hall Entrance Gets A Facelift Temporary Construction Will Give Building A Fresh Look

Rockville's City Hall will undergo an important renovation project with the replacement of the front ramp at the Vinson Street entrance. Included in the demolition area is the eternal flame, a gift from American Legion Post 86. Recognizing the importance of preserving the gift, Parks and Facilities Development Manager Jerry Daus has ensured the replacement and relocation of the landmark.

"The eternal flame has become a fixture at the entrance of City Hall," said Daus. "We are ensuring the symbolic nature of the gift is preserved, keeping the flame eternal as part of the

project although it will be temporarily removed."

Demolition of the existing front ramp, which was pulling away from the building, and retaining walls began last month, with completion scheduled for late October. This project will improve parking spaces for persons with disabilities. The existing ramp and retaining walls will be replaced with a new ramp and a staircase from Vinson Street. All of the footings, sidewalks, planters and railings also will be replaced. In addition to improved parking and replacing the eternal flame, the new staircase will better enable City Hall visitors to see

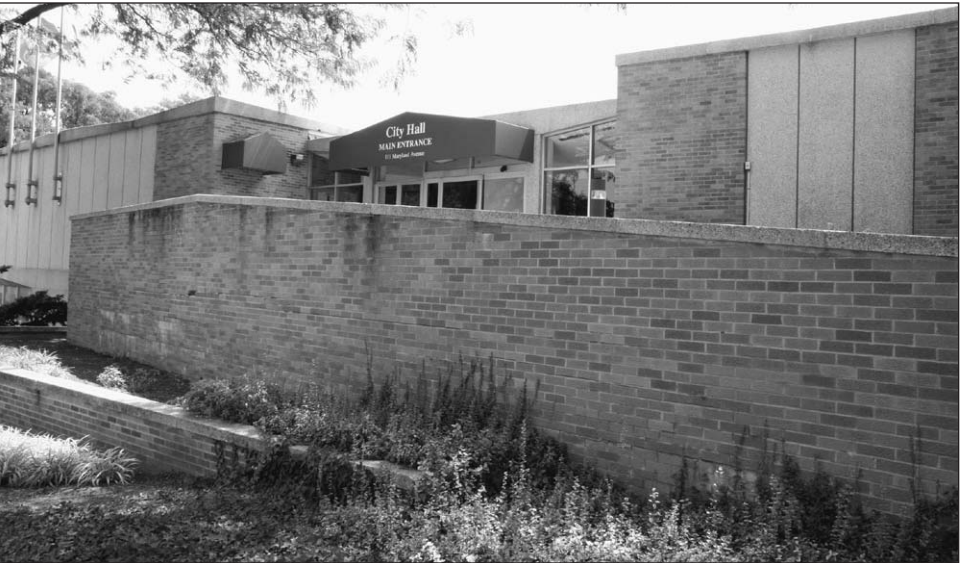
the front door from Vinson Street.

During the construction period, the Vinson Street entrance of City Hall will be closed. The upper parking lot entry that opens to the second floor will serve as the main entrance which also will be accessible for those with disabilities. Additional signage will be provided to assist visitors to the elevator, to other areas within City Hall and exiting the building in an emergency.

Thank you for your patience with this temporary disruption. For more information regarding the City Hall front entrance, contact Daus at 240-314-8607 or jdaus@rockvillemd.gov. ■



The entrance to City Hall is undergoing renovations to improve visibility and ensure the integrity of the structure. An architect's rendering (below, right) depicts the new entrance with stairs leading from Vicent Street, in contrast to the current entrance (below, left) that has only a brick ramp. The eternal flame (above) will be moved near the new entrance.



Rec and Parks Projects

GENERAL PROJECTS

Asphalt/Concrete Improvements • Outdoor Swim Center, Woodley Gardens and Woottons Mill parking lot paving and striping to begin mid-September

Athletic Court Improvements • Calvin Park tennis courts new asphalt, color coating and new fencing; basketball courts repair cracks and new color coating underway • Broome tennis and basketball courts repair cracks and color coat underway • King Farm Park tennis and basketball courts color coat work starting end of August • Bullards Park basketball courts color coat work starting end of August

College Gardens Park Improvements • Design underway based on public input and in conjunction with Public Works stormwater pond modification

City Hall Ramp Improvement • Main entrance to City Hall on Vinson Street reconstruction began late August with completion expected by early November

Civic Center Accessibility Improvements • Draft of study to identify adequate and accessible parking, vehicular and pedestrian access and stormwater management to support changes brought to Rockville Civic Center grounds via improvements has been completed • Review and input process by Boards and Commissions and the public has been completed • Preliminary construction cost estimates has been completed. Implementation and construction will be phased over several fiscal years starting with design plans in 2010 and construction in following fiscal years as funding allows

Dog Park and Exercise Area • Project complete within Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park Phase I • Rockville Dog Owners

Group (RDOG) continues to participate in an advisory role

Gude Drive Facility Improvements • Modernization and expansion of the City's Public Works and Parks maintenance complex in four phases • Construction of phase I is out to bid • Phase I includes replacement of the salt dome, stormwater management upgrades and vehicular access improvements

I-270/Maryland 28 Bike/Pedestrian Bridge • Separate bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists parallel to Maryland 28 on south side across I-270 to connect Hurley Avenue and Nelson Street bikeways • TEA-21 grant for \$3,771,190 received from State Highway Administration • Construction is on schedule with fencing, painting, path paving, site grading and landscaping to be completed this fall

King Farm Farmstead • Reconstruction of the hay-drying shed is complete • Scheduled for public use this fall

Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park • Phase I construction complete except for punch list items • Phase II construction including lighting parking lots, pathways, athletic courts and construction of the concession building is expected to begin in late fall

Playground Equipment Improvements • Montrose, Rockmead and College Gardens equipment in design phase with public input from neighborhood children and families

Rockville Municipal Swim Center Meeting/Fitness Room • Construction will be out to bid in September

Thomas Farm Community Center • Construction out to bid, due back the end of August ■

Public Works Projects

TRANSPORTATION

Asphalt and Concrete Maintenance Programs • Major rehabilitation of Tower Oaks Boulevard, Wootton Parkway, Research Boulevard, and Gude Drive • Concrete repairs are complete and asphalt milling and re-paving began in early July and will continue through October • Major impacts to traffic are expected

Baltimore Road • A project to improve Baltimore Road between Town Center/South Stonestreet Avenue and the city limits • Improvements include curb and gutter, sidewalk, bike path, roadway upgrades, storm drainage and stormwater management, landscaping and lighting improvements, bus stop accessibility, and pedestrian and bike safety crossings • City secured federal funds and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Maryland State Highway Administration for design and construction • City currently is soliciting engineering firms for design • Public outreach started and will continue through the design phase

Baltimore Road/Grandin Avenue Traffic Calming • Traffic Management Survey sent to residents on Grandin Avenue • Staff met with neighborhood residents on Feb. 22 and May 2, 2007 to discuss preliminary concepts and receive feedback from community • Staff has prepared final concept design and is preparing an advisory for final comments

Bus Shelters • Staff completed prioritization of locations for the next round of bus shelters to be installed in November 2007

Sidewalk Installation • North side of Beall Avenue from North Van Buren Street to Owens Street • Survey completed for all three project phases • "Walk the Block" meetings held for Phases I and III • Design completed for Phase I • Funding for construction of Phase I awarded through federal grant • Construction for Phase I planned for fall of 2007 • Final design for bus stop accessibility improvements was completed and construction will start in late August/September on the west side of Wootton Parkway between Fairwood Court and McCormick Road intersections

Streetlight Projects • New streetlights on the west side of Maryland Route 28 between Falls Grove Drive and Darnestown Road have been installed • Twenty poles were replaced at Tower Oaks Boulevard • 78 poles were painted as part of preventive maintenance program at the North Farm neighborhood • Three new lights were installed under the Park Road bridge

Traffic Signals • Traffic signal at the intersection of Maryland Avenue and East Middle Lane became operational in December 2006 • State Highway Administration began construction in February 2007 on new traffic signal at the intersection of Veirs Mill Road and

Broadwood Drive • Design of a new traffic signal at the intersection of Fleet Street and Richard Montgomery Drive is complete and construction is scheduled for fall 2007

STREAM & STORM-WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Alsace Lane Stream Restoration • Construction is completed • Project was combined with the Rockcrest Stream Project listed below

Carnation/I-270 Stormwater Management Retrofit • Modify existing stormwater management facilities to implement stream erosion control in Watts Branch drainage area • Construction is planned for late 2007

College Gardens Park/Pond Modification • Design is underway on the selected alternative of the Stormwater Management pond in the park and stream restoration between Princeton Place and Watts Branch • Community meeting is planned for October 4 at the Senior Center • Construction is planned to begin in spring 2008

Drainage Improvement at Longwood/Pinewood Intersection • Design is underway to relieve occasional street flooding during major rainstorms • Construction is planned for late 2007

Maryvale Stormwater Management and Park Improvements • Existing dual-use ballfield/Stormwater Management facility will be modified to create a separate soccer field and stormwater marsh • Park upgrades will be included based on a community survey • Citizen Task Force will meet in September to review park plans • Design is ongoing • Construction is planned for late 2007

Rockcrest Stream Improvement • Construction is completed

UTILITIES

Adclare Water Main Replacement • Construction is completed

Horizon Hill Water Mains • The condition of water mains in this area is being assessed • Water mains in some streets may need to be replaced

Lewis Avenue Water Main • Upgrade 4,600 feet of eight-inch water main to 12-inch water main from Broadwood Drive to Halpine Road • Design is ongoing • Construction is planned for 2008

Sewer Rehabilitation • Sewer rehabilitation is planned for the southern area of Rockville Pike in spring 2008

WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Water Treatment Plant • An emergency generator will be installed and connected in early 2008 • Modifications at the plant will be made in 2008 to replace chemical storage tank, repair ground water infiltration and relocate pipe to improve treatment process for regulatory compliance ■



HAY NOW... Reconstruction of the historic hay-drying shed at King Farm's Farmstead is complete and the new picnic shelter will be available for public use this fall. For more information about rental permit details, call 240-314-8660.

Walking to School

Safe Routes to Schools a Priority in Rockville

For several years the City of Rockville has coordinated Safe Routes to School programs in Rockville schools with an emphasis on education, enforcement and transportation improvements. The goal of the programs is to improve the safety of children walking and bicycling to school. In April 2007 the City's Department of Public Works received \$435,500 in federal grant funds to initiate a more comprehensive Safe Routes to School program, which the City will use to target six schools with speeding and pedestrian safety issues – Meadow Hall Elementary School, Twinbrook Elementary School, Beall Elementary School, College Gardens Elementary School, Julius West Middle School and Ritchie Park Elementary School.

The grant will fund transportation improvements, increase law enforcement presence, strengthen pedestrian and bicycle safety programs, and help launch walk-to-school encouragement activities.

"We are again looking forward to a successful program throughout this school year," said Transportation



As part of the City's projects for 2007-2008, the City's Department of Public Works is again including Safe Routes to School programs such as "Walk to School Day."

Planner Carrie Sanders with the Department of Public Works. "From physical changes on the sidewalks and roadways, to personal improvements such as the addition of police officers on the streets, we have seen progress each

year that the Safe Routes to School program has been in Rockville."

For the transportation improvements portion of the grant, Rockville's Public Works Department will improve pedestrian safety by eliminating key

sidewalk gaps, installing crosswalks and installing pedestrian countdowns at traffic signals. To slow speeds, funds will be targeted toward the installation of speed signage, flashing beacon signs to indicate the speed limit and installing traffic calming devices.

For the enforcement portion of the grant, the Rockville Police Department will conduct enforcement activities within the walk zones of the schools, in an effort to decrease the number of speeders in the school zones and to increase proper motorist yielding behavior at crosswalks.

With the education portion of the grant, Rockville's Recreation and Parks Department will coordinate a pedestrian and bicycle safety training program taught to kindergarten through fifth graders, where the students use a mock street course that is designed for practicing pedestrian and bicycle safety. For the encouragement portion of the grant, Rockville's Recreation and Parks Department will provide support to each school for the implementation of walking and bicycling encouragement programs, such as "Walk to School Day."

For questions about the City Safe Routes to School programs and grant activities, contact Sanders at 240-314-8529 or csanders@rockvillemd.gov. ■

Keeping Court Clean, Fresh

Rockville Completes Annual Athletic Courts Resurfacing



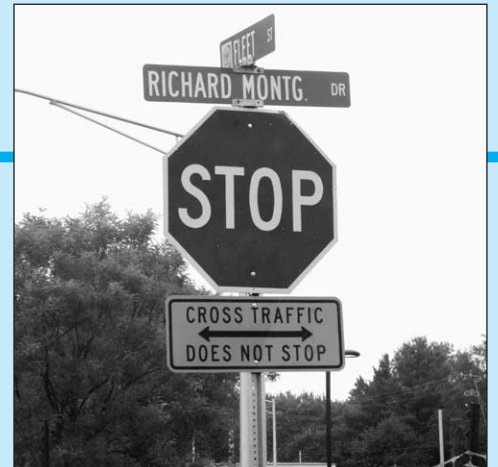
King Farm, Calvin, Broome and Bullards Parks are among the athletic courts that the City's Department of Recreation and Parks performed scheduled maintenance on. The City takes particular pride in the appearance of its parks and proves this commitment through regular maintenance and care.

Red, Yellow, Green

New Traffic Signals are a Go in Rockville

In The Works

Plans are in the works to install a traffic light at the busy intersection of Fleet Street and Richard Montgomery Drive, in front of Richard Montgomery High School. Currently, there are stop signs to regulate the flow of traffic.



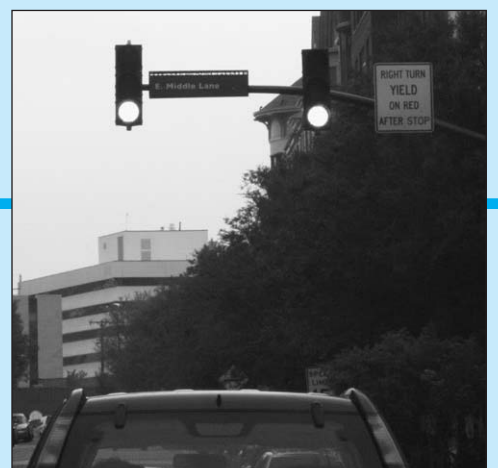
Under Construction

A traffic signal is currently under construction at the busy intersection of Veirs Mill Road and Broadwood Drive.



Just Completed

A new traffic light was installed in Town Center at the intersection of Maryland Avenue and East Middle Lane. It became functional in late 2006.



Next Stop: Wootton Parkway

Bus Stop Re-construction on Schedule on Major City Roadway

As part of Rockville's ongoing effort to improve pedestrian safety and bus stop accessibility, the City of Rockville staff has been working with citizens to implement a pedestrian safety and bus stop accessibility project along Wootton Parkway between Fairwood Court and McCormick Road. A survey conducted by the City showed that the majority of pedestrians crossing Wootton Parkway are transit users walking to the nearby bus stops. To improve pedestrian safety and accessibility to the bus stops, the City developed a plan as a result of citizens' comments and consultation with Montgomery County Division of Transit Services, Passenger Facilities Unit. "Public engagement and resident participation is an important part of our project development process," said Nazar Saleh of the City's Traffic and Transportation Division. "We notified the affected residents/citizens and evaluated their suggestions to incorporate the feasible ideas during all phases of the project."

The project supports the Mayor and Council's goal to enhance pedestrian safety and to implement sidewalks where they are missing. It also supports the objective of accessibility to transit facilities.

As part of the final design improvements, the following features are included:

- 190-foot long sidewalk along the west side of Wootton Parkway between Fairwood Court and McCormick Road to improve access to the bus stop and an enhanced crosswalk
- Retaining/block wall (4-foot maximum height) between the sidewalk and the fence (60 feet in total length and located toward crosswalk)
- Two crosswalk ramps and re-adjusted ramp on Fairwood Court
- Hatched crosswalk south of the McCormick Road/Wootton Parkway intersection
- Install four pedestrian crossing-ahead signs (one crossing-ahead sign for the crosswalk at Dundee Road)
- Install two pedestrian crossing signs near the crosswalk
- Replant twelve Arbor Vitae or Leyland Cypress trees between the sidewalk and the property fence for landscaping and screening purposes
- Pursue installing a speed detector or sensor device for southbound Wootton Parkway traffic before the curved alignment between Dundee Road and Fairwood Court



A bus stop accessibility and re-construction project on Wootton Parkway will provide a safe place for pedestrians to access public transportation.

The project is funded in the City's Capital Improvements Program under the Pedestrian Safety project. The expected completion date of this project, including pavement markings and signs, is late September. Replacement of trees may not happen until later in the fall.

For more information on the project, contact Saleh, at 240-314-8507, or nsaleh@rockvillemd.gov. The final design plan including detailed information can be found at: www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/traffic/pdf/woottonpkwysidewalkfinaldesign.pdf. ■

City Project Goes to the Dogs

New Rockville Dog Park is a Hit with Dogs, Owners

The new Rockville City dog park is not only a place for dogs to enjoy, but their companions can have almost as much fun.

"Since the opening of the dog park in April, the Rockville Dog Owners Group (RDOG) and the City of Rockville's Department of Recreation and Parks have committed themselves to not only providing a great place for the dogs to play, but also a fun place for the owners to socialize with other dog-loving people," said RDOG President Seanne Baruch.

RDOG is a community organization that has been involved with the dog park design, location, establishment of policies and procedures, and serves as an advisory committee to daily park functions. The Rockville dog park has been a City priority for the past few years and finally enjoys its place as part of the newly constructed Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park along Piccard and Pleasant drives.

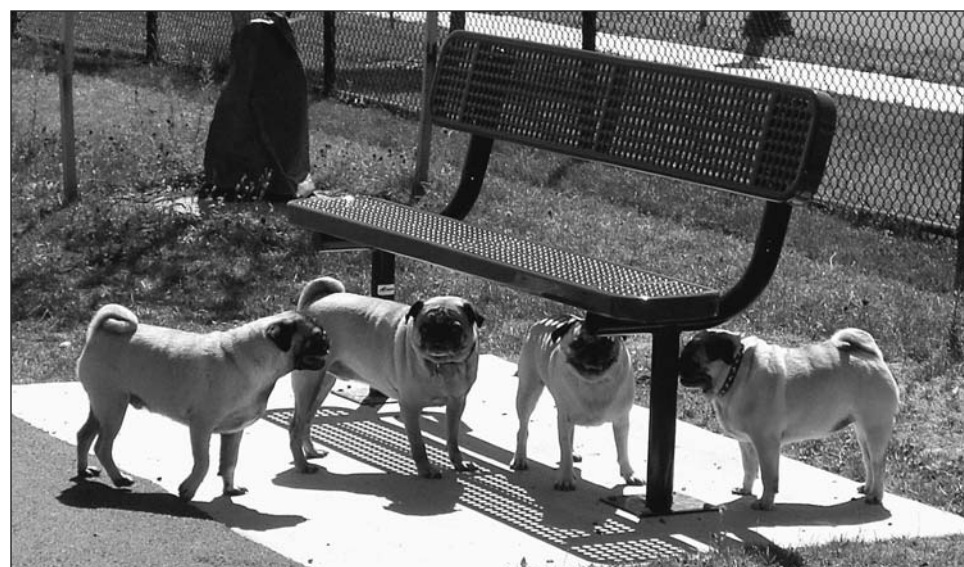
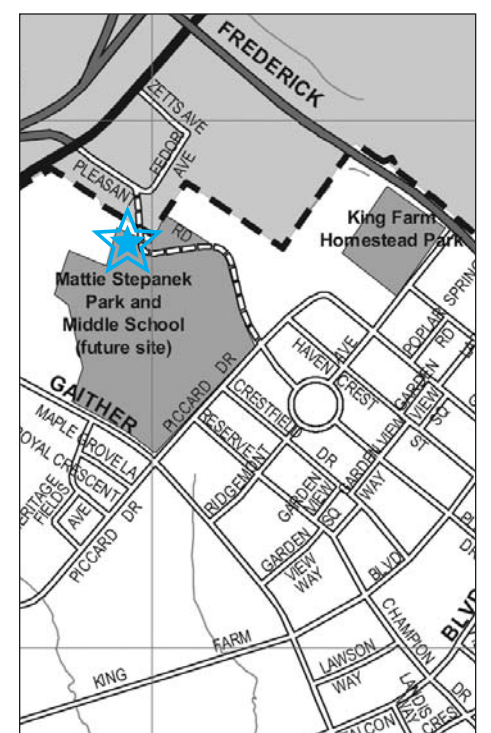
The facility boasts many popular dog park features including two fenced-in dog run areas, one for small dogs and one for large dogs; fenced-in areas to securely unleash dogs to prevent escape; 20- by 20-foot shade shelter spanning both the large and small dog areas; drinking fountains for people and dogs; a parking area with 40 spaces; benches; and picnic tables.

Since the official park opening on April 21, plenty of Rockville dogs have utilized the new facility.

"We have had several special events since the opening," Baruch said, "such as a Fourth of July celebration, guest speakers and, everyone's favorite, 'Dog Days,' where we provide baby pools filled



Thanks to the efforts of City staff and RDOG volunteers, the new Rockville Dog Park is a reality. Pictured above from RDOG are (left to right) Meghan Goins, Diana Lees, Ian Gordon, and Carl Peterson with some of their canine companions. The park, located in the King Farm community (see map at right), is open to all Rockville residents.



with water for the dogs to swim and cool their paws during the hot summer months. They love it. And that's just the beginning. We have many more events planned for the future." Thanks to the support of the City, including Recreation and Parks' Mark Kibiloski who has spearheaded the project since the planning stages, and the dedicated members of RDOG and the community, canines in Rockville will always have a safe place to socialize.

Use of the dog park is limited to residents of the City of Rockville and users must have a signed Dog Park Rules Compliance Release form on file with the Rockville City Police Department. In addition, all dogs must be currently licensed with the Rockville City Police Department. For more information on licensing, contact the Police Department's Neighborhood Services at 240-314-8900. For more information about the dog park in general, contact 240-314-8700. ■